(b) and (c) The required manpower, including civilian personnel, is sanctioned for all new projects of strategic importance. 2901 posts for the Naval Base Project at Karwar and 1220 posts for the Naval Academy at Ezhimala have been sanctioned by the Government during the last two years. These sanctioned have enhanced the strength of civilian personnel of the Navy by 2634 posts.

Fleet upgradation by IAF

2313. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that IAF is on the move to upgrade all its aircrafts over the next five years;

(b) whether it means that there is a dilution of the need for fresh inductions;

(c) the details of aircrafts that IAF is going to upgrade; and

(d) the period which the IAF is going to take to complete its fleet upgradation?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) Mid-life upgradation of aircraft is undertaken from time to time in order to bridge the gap in technology to make the fleet of aircraft more viable for the next few years and also slow down the phasing out of the aircraft from the service.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) and (d) The Air Force has identified the MIG-29, Mirage-2000 fighter aircraft, AN-32, IL-76 transport aircraft and Mi-17/Mi-17 IV helicopter for upgrade during the 10th and 11th Plan periods.

Talks with American companies selling weapons systems

†2314. SHRI JANESHWAR MISHRA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that a group of American

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.